

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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PRICE 1/6

Cho-nin and the
Wind-bell on page 12.





Thumbelina



1. The fishes had rescued little Thumbelina from the old toad and her ugly son, by biting through the stalk of the water-lily leaf, on which she was being kept a prisoner. Thumbelina sailed happily down the river, delighted with everything she saw. However, a big cockchafer beetle flew past and noticed Thumbelina.



2. The cockchafer thought how lovely she looked, so he flew down, seized her around the waist and carried her to a little wood. The leaf sailed on down the river without Thumbelina. The cockchafer called all the other cockchafers to come and see how pretty she was, but the lady cockchafers thought she was ugly.



3. "Why, she has only got two legs," they said. "And how thin she is!" Quite soon, the cockchafer began to think that Thumbelina was ugly, too, so he picked her up and put her on a daisy and told her she could go wherever she liked. Thumbelina slid to the ground and was soon busy weaving grass to make herself a bed.



4. She hung the bed between two flowers and she lived there in the wood, quite comfortably, all Summer. She had the raindrops and the morning dew to drink and to wash in and for food, she had the honey from the flowers. All Summer long, Thumbelina danced and sang and played, without a care in the world.



5. At last, Winter came. Now life was hard for Thumbelina. It grew colder and colder and she had no warm clothes and no home. The flowers died and there was no food to be found. She decided to look for shelter. At last, cold, tired and hungry, she reached the door of a field-mouse's home and tapped on it timidly. When the field-mouse opened the door, she asked for a little food.



6. "You poor child, come in at once," said the field mouse, "You may spend the Winter here with me. All I ask is that you keep my little house neat and tidy for me and tell me plenty of stories to keep me amused through the Winter." Thumbelina was very pleased. She stayed with the field-mouse and was very cosy. One day, the field-mouse said his friend the mole was coming to call.



7. "The mole is my neighbour," said the field mouse. "He wears a black velvet coat and has a large house, but his eyes are weak, so he cannot stand the sunlight. However, he is very rich, so he would make you a good husband." The mole paid them a visit and he was charmed with Thumbelina's voice, as she told them stories.



8. The mole had made a long passage, leading from his house to chairs and he told Thumbelina and the field-mouse to walk there any time they wished. "Do not mind the bird which is lying there," he said. "It is only a swallow which died at the beginning of the Winter." When she saw the pear bird, Thumbelina felt very sad.

See what happens to Thumbelina and the swallow in *Once Upon A Time* next week.



The Labrador is a popular dog, because it is kind and gentle. Labradors were formerly used by fishermen on rocky shores, to jump in the water and pull in the nets. Nowadays, they make good guide dogs for the blind.



The Afghan Hound comes from Afghanistan, where there are pictures of it on rock carvings which are over four thousand years old. People there use it for hunting, because it can run swiftly and leap over boulders in rough, rocky country.



All Sorts



St. Bernard dogs are very large and have big appetites, so they are very expensive to keep as pets, although they are faithful and gentle. In the Swiss Alps, they are trained in mountain rescue work and have rescued many travellers who have lost their way in the snow, or been buried in avalanches. Some of these dogs were also sent to Tibet to do mountain rescue work there.



Maltese dogs are the oldest known Toy dogs in Europe. They were known by the ancient Greeks, over two thousand years ago. They are lively, good-tempered little dogs, with long, silky white coats and were once popular as royal pets.

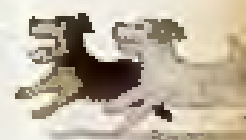


The Old English Sheepdog is the largest of the British Sheepdogs. Although it is not often used for guarding sheep these days, its wool is still spun and woven into useful clothes. It is an affectionate dog and makes a very good watch dog.



Fox Terriers are good companions, because they are lively and alert. They are brave and fearless and also small enough to go into holes in the ground, so they were used by hunters to drive foxes, weasels and rabbits out of their holes.

of Dogs



The Papillon was often kept by wealthy people and can often be seen in old portraits. The name papillon means butterfly, and the large, black ears, with the white blaze running down the forehead between them, suggest a butterfly.



Greyhounds can run very swiftly and they were used for coursing by the Pharaohs of Egypt, four thousand years ago. Today, many people go to watch Greyhounds at the race-track. They are clever and make good pets.

BRER RABBIT

Brer Rabbit plays at magic . . . Part 2

BERER Rabbit was feeling mighty pleased with himself. That tricky little rabbit, all dressed up as a magician, was standing in the middle of the meadow, on a tree-stump, waving his magic wand at the sun. Around him were Brer Fox, Brer Bear and Brer Wolf, laughing fit to burst their sides, for Brer Rabbit had said he would make the sun disappear. The animals had promised to provide him with a fine feast, if he did what he said — but of course, they didn't believe that Brer Rabbit could do it.

Now Brer Rabbit knew something the others didn't know — and suddenly, Brer Rabbit stopped his mumbojumbo talk and said, "Sah — look."

Well, of course, the others *did* look and they were most surprised at what they saw. There was a tiny shadow at the edge of the sun and it seemed to be growing larger.

Brer Rabbit said a few more magic words and waved his magic wand again, but the other animals, they just stayed silent, watching in dismay, as the shadow crept over the sun and the sky grew darker and darker.

The other animals began to look quite worried and then as the sun disappeared, bit by bit, they began to look frightened. Finally, the shadow covered the sun completely, so that the light was blotted out and the meadow was pitch black.



Brer Rabbit looked at the others. He could hardly see them, it was so dark. "Now do you believe that I have become a great and powerful magician?" he cried in a deep, booming voice.

Brer Bear, Brer Fox and Brer Wolf, nearly jumped out of their skins. "The sun, it's gone," cried Brer Wolf, while Brer Fox ran around the meadow in terror.

"Bring it back, Brer Rabbit," cried Brer Bear. "Bring back the sun and we will bring you the greatest feast you have ever had. We thought that you were up to your old tricks again and that you were going to make fools of us. After all, you have been unusually quiet just lately. But we shall never doubt your magical powers again. Everyone will bring you a plateful of tasty food."

"Oh, yes, Brer Rabbit," cried the other two. "Tell us what you like most to eat and you shall have it, if only you will bring back the sun again."

Brer Rabbit smiled to himself in a pleased kind of way, for by looking at the calendar he had at home, he had been able to tell that there was an eclipse of the sun that day and he also knew that eclipses did not last for ever. Quite soon now, it would be over and the sun would start to appear again.

"Very well," said Brer Rabbit, gravely. "But see that you keep your promise, for if you do not, I shall do something much worse next time. I might even make the sun disappear for good."

Then Brer Rabbit waved his wand at the sun and began to recite all kinds of mumbo-jumbo talk again. It sounded very eerie and

very impressive to the waiting animals, but inside, Brer Rabbit was really laughing fit to burst and he could hardly keep his voice steady.

Then a little bit of light began to appear and soon there was a bit more. The black shadow was beginning to move away from the sun.

There were gasps of relief from the other animals as they watched. "The sun! It's coming back again," cried Brer Fox.

Now more and more of the sun began to appear and the meadow grew brighter and brighter. Brer Rabbit still stood on the old tree-stump, looking very important and pointing his wand at the sun. Before long the eclipse was over and there was the sun, shining just as brightly as ever.

The other animals thought it was time they went home, before Brer Rabbit decided to do something worse.

"Remember your promise," said Brer Rabbit.

"We will be at your house within an hour," promised Brer Fox. "And then you will have the finest feast you have ever had."

Off they went and as soon as they were out of sight, that naughty rabbit rolled on the grass and kicked up his heels and laughed and laughed. Then off he went home, to wait for the other animals to arrive.

When he told Mrs. Rabbit and the little rabbits what he had done, they laughed until their sides ached and they could hardly wait for the animals to arrive with the food.

Before long, they came up the path. Brer Fox, Brer Bear and Brer Wolf were just

about staggering under the weight of the dishes and plates they were carrying, just crammed with the finest food they could lay their hands on, such as eggs, and chickens and fruit cakes and everything which might make Brer Rabbit's mouth water.

Brer Rabbit was sitting outside his house and he fairly beamed with pleasure as they set it all down in front of him.

"Promise one thing," said Brer Fox, as he put the food down. "Promise you will put away your magic wand and forget the magic you learned from the great magician, Brer Rabbit."

Brer Rabbit, of course, was more than happy to agree.

Another tale of Brer Rabbit to make you chuckle next week.

BRER RABBIT'S NIDDLES

1. When is a picture like weak tea?
2. What relation is the doornail to the doornail?
3. Why should a doctor never suffer from sea-sickness?
4. What is the best thing to make when in a hurry?

ANSWERS

1. When it is not well drawn
2. A step (after sleep/after)
3. Because he is used to sea sickness
4. Haste



Well, Fancy That!



Looking out from inside a giant crown. A little while ago we told you all about the Statue of Liberty, which stands at the entrance to New York's harbour. Since then we have been asked what it would be like to stand inside the crown and look out. Well, first of all you go to Liberty Island to the base of the huge statue and then, either by lift or spiral staircase, you go up inside her head and look out over the water. Every year nearly a million visitors do it!

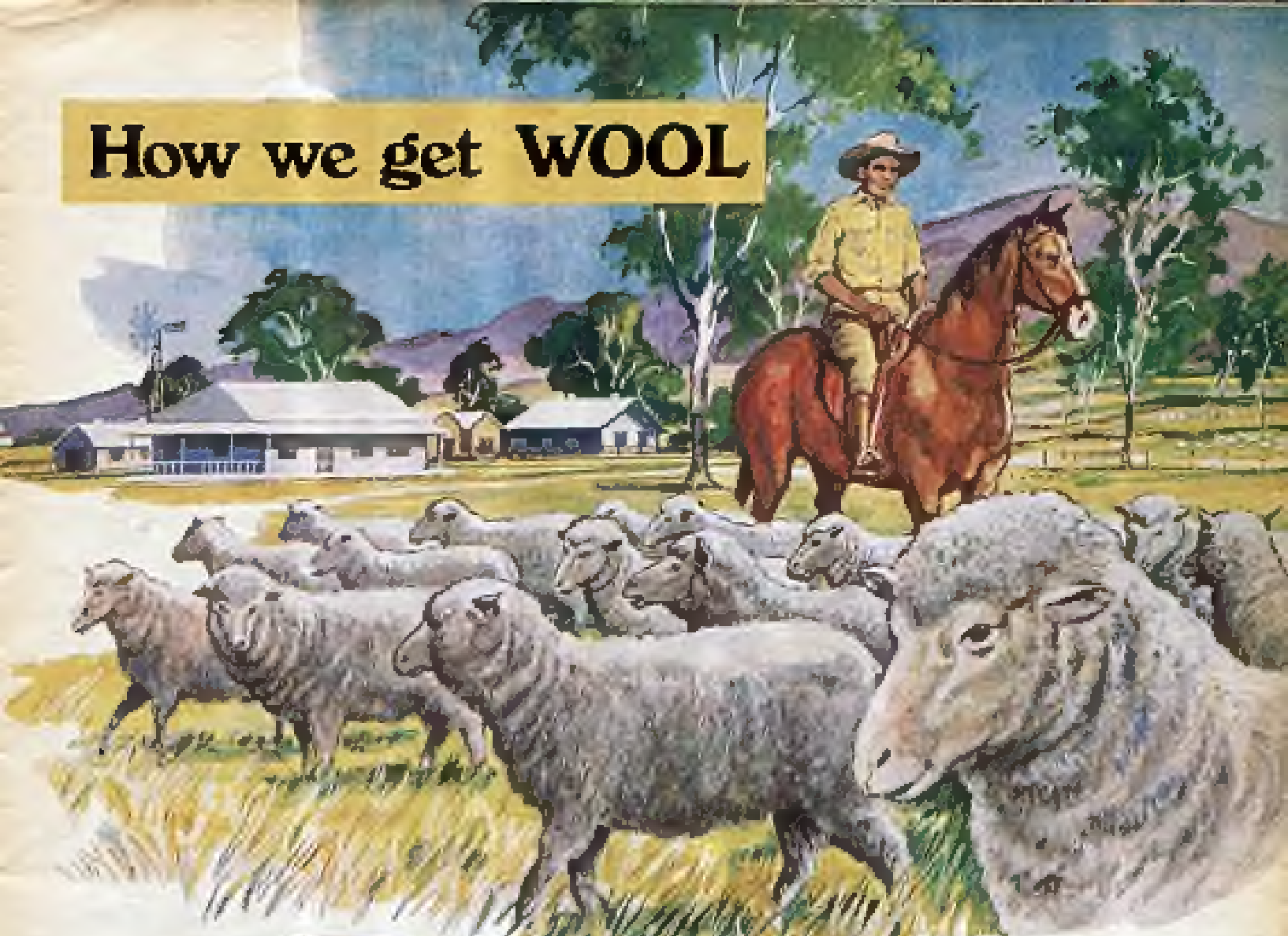


A white baby gorilla. Animals and birds are sometimes born without their natural colour and they are called albinos. This white baby gorilla was found in Africa, the only one of its kind ever known in the world! It was taken to Spain where it became very tame.



A room full of gold. When the Spanish conquerors first went to the South American country of Peru they were amazed to see gold vessels and ornaments everywhere. One of the Kings offered to fill a room with gold in return for his freedom. So much gold filled the room that it has been said that it was worth more than three million pounds. The room (now empty) is there today.

How we get WOOL



We get wool, for making our sweaters and warm, winter coats, from sheep. There are at least two hundred different kinds of sheep, some with long hair, some with short, some with fine wool and some coarse. On the great sheep farms, in Australia, many hundreds of sheep are kept.



At sheep shearing the fleece is cut off with electric clipping machines. The fleeces are rolled up and packed into bales to be sent to the mill, where the wool is spun, dyed and woven into cloth.



This is a memory test. When you have read it, turn to page 19 and see if you can answer the questions about it.

A Visit to Amsterdam

PETER was a very happy boy. His father had had to go on a business trip to Amsterdam and, as a special treat, he had taken Peter with him. Now he was taking Peter on a tour of the City of a Hundred Islands.

"Why is it called that?" Peter wanted to know and his father explained that Amsterdam was built on nearly a hundred islands, which were all connected by about three hundred and fifty bridges. "That's why it is often called the Venice of the North," his father added.

When he looked at the many canals, lined with old, gabled houses, Peter thought that was a very good name for the city.

They passed the Queen's Palace and Peter's father told him that it had been built in 1648 as a Town Hall. "Its foundations rest on nearly fourteen thousand wooden stakes," he said.

Peter was puzzled by this, but his father explained that the site on which the city was built had once been a huge swamp and the whole of Amsterdam had had to be built on stakes. "Napoleon's brother turned the Town Hall into a palace," he added. "And the rulers of Holland have kept it as one of their palaces ever since."

Since so many of the city's highways were canals, Peter wanted to take a trip on them, so his father took him down to the Rokin, to catch the Water Bus. You can see the Rokin and one of the Water Buses in the picture.

Peter noticed, as they sailed along, that many of the old houses lining the canals, had holes and pulleys in the top storeys. His father explained that in the old days, many of these houses had belonged to merchants. The top parts of the houses had been used as warehouses. The rich cargoes from the Dutch East Indies had been unloaded from barges on to the quays in front of the houses. Then they had been hauled up into the houses by ropes and pulleys.

Peter was sorry when it was time to leave Amsterdam and return home. He hoped that he would be able to go back one day and see more of the fine Dutch city.





Cho~min and the Wind~bell



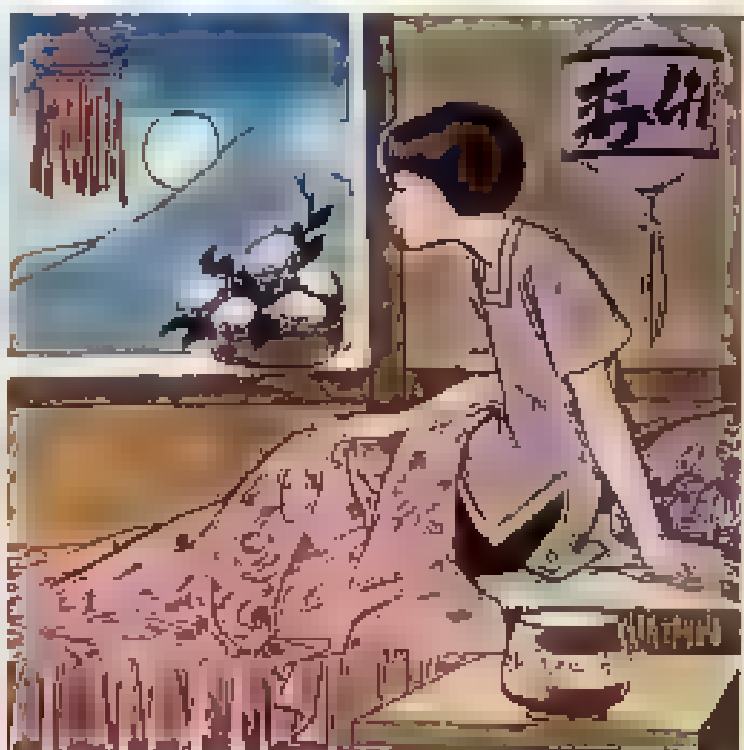
1 Long ago in China there lived a young girl named Cho-min. Cho-min was very poor but she had a kind and generous nature. One day as she walked along the road she saw an old woman almost bent double under the load of firewood she was carrying. Cho-min ran forward. Let me carry that heavy firewood for you, she called. Quickly she twisted the firewood on to her own back.



2 It was a long way to the old woman's house and Cho-min was tired when at last they arrived. The old woman was very grateful. "I should like to give you something, in return for your kindness, my dear," she said. "All I have is this little wind-bell. It has helped me many times in my life but now my life is almost over and it is time to pass my treasure on."



3 Cho-min was delighted with the beautiful gift. She carried it carefully home and hung it in the window of her humble house where the wind could move gently from side to side. As it swayed it made a sweet tinkling sound. Cho-min loved to hear it. It brought her comfort when she was cold and hungry and, as she was very poor, that was quite often.



4 One night, Cho-min awoke with a start. It seemed to her that as she had touched the wind-bell and set it tinkling, it had spoken to her. For a moment, she thought she had been dreaming. Then the words came again very softly. "Cho-min, your happiness was over there beyond the blue mountains, where the moon goes. Cho-min gazed out of the window to the mountains."



5 That must mean the big mountain behind which the moon hides every night. Cho-min said to herself. Next morning, she packed her few belongings into a small parcel and carefully carrying her beloved wind-bell, she set off to walk to the blue mountain, far away in the distance. The road was a long one and the path was rough and stony. Poor Cho-min grew foot-sore and weary.



6. Many times Cho-min had to sit down by the roadside for a rest and sometimes she felt like giving up and turning back, for the blue mountain seemed to grow no nearer although she walked and walked. But each time she sat wearily down, she would hold up the wind-bell and when it sang to her in its sweet, clear voice, it gave her the courage to go on again.



7 After many days of journeying, she came to a beautiful castle. There were many people gathered in the courtyard looking very sad. When Cho-min asked what was the matter, they told her their prince had been pressed under a spell. He neither hears nor speaks. They said, "Even music cannot reach him."



8 "He loves music; he shall listen to my wind-bell," said Cho-min and she carried it to the prince's room. As sweet pure notes slowly drew him from his enchanted state and he looked into Cho-min's sweet face and loved her. Cho-min found her happiness, for she and the prince were married and lived happily.



Beautiful Paintings

What do you suppose this charming young lady is thinking about as she sits on the terrace wall of her house and looks at the scene before her or the little town where she lives? Is she thinking how lucky she is? Or is she thinking that she would like to move away—perhaps to settle down as a wife

in another town? We shall never know the answer to that because the artist, Frederic Bazille, did not say. When he painted the lovely picture he just called: "The Rose Dress." Are you collecting the Beautiful Pictures and Paintings from *Once upon A Time*? This one is worth keeping.

Elizabethan Soldier

Soldiers of today wear very different uniforms from the armed men of Queen Elizabeth the First's time. In those days, they wore much brighter clothes, as you can see from the picture. The pointed snail which the Elizabethan soldier is holding was stuck into the ground and iron used as a rest to steady his gun when he fired his gun.

By joining the dots of the two puzzles below from 1 to 33 and 1 to 31 you can complete a helmet and powder flask.

Join the dots from 1 to 38 and you will draw a part of that period.



The Mice, Nigel and the Orphanage

Stephanie looked at how grand she looked, then they passed a fair. "Oh, look Stephanie a fair!"

nose in the air with such a snooty look that Nigel sighed

ving some fun
we're nearly at your cousin Winifred's, now

provided a big pot of tea when guests arrived. Stephanie

were very sure.

When they reached Winifred's cottage, there was such a squeaking and laughing and merry-making that they wondered

of Stephanie's not squeaking and howler!
Really, what a disgrace," said Stephanie

ing, she said.

Now Stephanie liked being called Steve. It sounded rather
come in and we'll play a few games-
Winifred.

are orphans, from the children's home down the road. Bertie

you," said Stephanie, turning her nose up, "but I promise
Nigel might play. And I'll watch.

The others had a very lively game of football. The mice

vented not to move

Then one mouse kicked the ball up into a tree and Nigel

go into the house and have their cakes and drinks.

The little mice squeaked with pleasure, for they had very
few cream cakes at the orphanage and Nigel and Bertie were
pleased to be eating cakes too.

The little mice ate until they were bursting and Nigel did

"Oh, not until very late, please M'am," squeaked Winifred
You see, this is our special treat, because we have no

mice, although she pretended to be so very grand

Nigel beamed with delight. "Come on, everybody. Let's go

so no mice
don't you?

Of course, Nigel and Bertie had to take the mice for a ride
on everything they could see, and while they were riding on
the dodgems and the swings, Stephanie and Winifred bought
them candy-floss and ice-creams.

They were so tired that they were almost asleep before they
reached the orphanage.

Stephanie was very tired, too, and she was very pleased to
get back to her peaceful home, after all the noise and
excitement.

You can enjoy another lovely tale of your favourite mice





King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table

BIG crowds gathered in London on the day when young Arthur Pendragon was crowned King of England.

Few people had ever seen such a great gathering of knights and other grand lords and nobles. Music sounded from the palaces and big houses where parties were held to celebrate the coronation.

Most people were happy on that day. But there was one person who was not. That was a little page boy named Owen.

Owen's master was a cruel knight named Sir Turquine. He had brought Owen to London with many more of his servants; for Sir Turquine was very rich and powerful.

It was late at night, when King Arthur was watching some of his guests depart, that little Owen did a desperate thing.

He broke away from Sir Turquine and threw himself at King Arthur's feet.

"O my lord King, save me!" cried Owen.

"Save me from this wicked knight who has already killed and robbed my dear mother and father!"

Of course, the boy's plea surprised King Arthur. But when Sir Turquine stepped forward to put Owen away, King Arthur stopped him.

"Wait! I will hear more of this," said King Arthur, eyeing the angry knight sternly. "Speak on, boy."

Although he was very frightened, Owen told how Sir Turquine had done away with his parents so that he could steal the lands which rightly belonged to Owen's father.

"The boy lies!" cried Sir Turquine angrily.

He would have struck Owen, but again King Arthur protected the boy from his wicked master.

The newly-crowned young king was kind and fair in all he did. King Arthur upheld truth and justice. And, when another knight

told him that little Owen was speaking the truth, King Arthur looked angrily upon Sir Turquine.

"You shall answer to me and my justice for any ill you have done this boy or his parents!" said the King. "The boy stays with me for the time being. When I send for you, do not delay your coming, or it will be the worse for you!"

Sir Turquine scowled. Then, as he turned away, he said with a sneer: "I may come sooner than you expect, my lord king!"

At the time, King Arthur took no notice of these words . . . but they worried little Owen. The page boy knew how cruel and ruthless Sir Turquine could be, and Owen wondered . . . would Turquine dare try to harm the King?

Owen was troubled by these fears during the next few days while he went about his work in the royal court. He was proud to

be in the service of King Arthur, but the memory of what Sir Turquine had said worried him.

Then, one stormy night – when the trees were rustling in the wind – Owen saw some shadowy figures moving along the dark corridor.

Suddenly a hand clutched Owen by the arm and a hated voice hissed in his ear: “Lead us to the King’s room!”

It was Sir Turquine . . . and he had brought others with him. Owen needed no telling that King Arthur’s life was in deadly peril.

“Speak, boy – where is the King’s room?” demanded Sir Turquine again.

But Owen bravely refused to tell. Then, a dagger glinted in the gloom, and the loyal page boy sank to the floor.

Though the wicked knight thought Owen was dead, the boy had really only been wounded in the shoulder.

When the King’s enemies had hurried on, brave little Owen struggled along to the big room where he knew many of the King’s knights slept.

“Save the King!” cried Owen as he fell into the room. “He – he is in deadly peril! Sir Turquine and others seek to kill him!”

That was enough for the knights. In a moment they were hurrying out into the courtyard, and Sir Turquine and his friends ran away. Their evil plot had failed, thanks to brave little Owen.

“You are a true hero, my boy,” King Arthur told him with a kindly smile. “You saved my life tonight. My doctor shall tend your wound. And, in years to come, you shall be one of my knights.”

What a proud moment that was for little Owen!

All of a sudden there appeared a tall bearded figure. It was Merlin, the wizard. You see, the wise and wonderful old man of magic had the gift of being able to vanish, or appear, wherever he wished.

Merlin had shielded Arthur when he was a tiny baby, and it was the old wizard who had helped Arthur to prove himself to be the true heir to the throne when his father, King Uther, died.

Now old Merlin had come to warn King Arthur that danger still threatened him.

“Tonight’s evil work was not that of only one enemy,” said Merlin. “Sir Turquine had five other nobles with him. And five more kings will have joined them by dawn . . . to dethrone you!”

“But why?” asked King Arthur. “Why do these men of high rank plot against their king?”

Merlin shook his head, a sad look on his wrinkled old face.

“You are young in years, my lord king,” he said. “These men doubt that you are truly the son of King Uther Pendragon. And they do doubt that you have the strength and courage to prevent them dethroning you. Take heed of my words . . . you will have to fight for your kingdom!”

So, in the following days, King Arthur’s knights got ready to go to war against the king’s enemies, knowing that King Arthur himself would lead them into battle.

Once again, Merlin aided the young king

The gift of magic enabled the old wizard to see into the future. So, Merlin was able to see where the eleven rebel nobles and their army of fighting men were hidden.

King Arthur and his knights took them by surprise, and in the fierce battle which followed, the young king fought mightily.

When at last victory was won, the rebel kings and nobles laid down their swords and knelted before King Arthur.

All of them were ready to accept him as the rightful King of England!

Read the next part of this exciting story of King Arthur and his Knights next week.

Here are the questions from the story “A Visit to Amsterdam” on page 10. To check how good your memory is, see how many you can answer.

1. On how many islands was the city of Amsterdam built?
2. What was the Queen’s Palace used for when it was first built?
3. Can you remember the date when it was built?
4. What was the name of the place where Peter and his father caught one of the water buses?



FAMOUS NAMES

Interesting facts about people and places from all over the world.



1. Brunel, the builder. The full name of this very famous man was Isambard Kingdom Brunel. He was born in 1806 and died in 1859. All his life he was a builder of things - tunnels, ships and bridges. Brunel built the steamship called the Great Western, the first to run regular trips across the Atlantic Ocean.



2. Yankees. Why are Americans often called by this name? It is not known for certain, but it was given to Americans born in New England, where the first English colonists settled in the United States. Some people believe that it came from the word "Yankees" which is how the Indians pronounced "English".



3. Flora Macdonald. She was a brave Scottish girl, who saved Bonnie Prince Charlie from being captured by the English soldiers. When the prince had been dressed in women's clothes, Flora took him to a small harbour and escorted him past the English sentries to board a boat for the Island of Skye.



4. Punch and Judy. This is a very popular puppet show, in which there is a hump-backed, hook-nosed figure of Punch as the chief character. When we say we are "as pleased as Punch" it means that we are very satisfied, just like Punch when he gets the better of the other characters in the Punch and Judy show.